

Easter Sunday Year A – 9th April 2023

Introduction

Today is the greatest Celebration of the year for us. It's Easter Sunday!
We celebrate because Jesus has risen from the dead- Alleluia!

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry, *(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)*
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (Sung) *Before singing the Gloria remind the Children of the importance of it today. We have not sung it at all during Lent and return to it as it is a reminder to us of our Lord's coming and rising from the dead.*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It')

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel

*Matthew 28:1-10 From Sunday Book of Readings
The Lectionary Adapted for Children P.45*

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew

All say "Glory to You Oh Lord" while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart.

Read the Gospel aloud and at the end say:

The Gospel of the Lord

All say : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Today we celebrate Easter- ask the children what they think of when they hear the word Easter. (They may make reference to eggs, this is a good chance to remind them that these represent the stone of the tomb that Jesus rolled away)

Explain that Easter is the most important celebration in our Church because of what we heard in today's Gospel.

Remind them of the events leading up to Easter. On Holy Thursday Jesus celebrated the Last Supper and left us with the gift of Priesthood and his own Body and Blood in the form of the Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist.

On Good Friday, Jesus took on the sins of the world and was crucified and died. This filled us with great sadness.

In today's Gospel we hear how Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb. There was an earthquake and an Angel appeared and moved the stone away from the entrance to the tomb! (How do you think they felt and reacted? Fear, panic)

Ask the children what happened next?(The angel told the women not to be afraid and that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead on the third day as He had told them. The angel showed the women the place where the body of Jesus had been and that the tomb was now empty.)

What did the angel tell the women to do?(To go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and to go to Galilee where they will see Jesus).

What happened next? (The women were leaving to tell the disciples when they met Jesus! Jesus also tells them to tell the disciples they have seen a Him and that they must go to Galilee where they will see a Him too).

When Jesus rose from the dead, he overcame death as it once was for us all. By his rising he has allowed us to enjoy eternal life with his father in Heaven. His dying, destroyed death and that is why Easter is the greatest celebration of all.

What kind of things can you do at Easter to show your great appreciation to Jesus for what he did for us? (The main thing you can do is show his

love to others by the way you act and live your lives every single day. Trust in him and spread his love with everyone you meet. Pray for those in need, especially the sick and lonely and those suffering because of war).

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for loving us. Your rising from the dead has destroyed death. May we always strive to follow the path you set for us, leading us to eternal life and happiness.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You are truly the Light of the World. May we never be afraid to bear witness of your unending love for us. During this Easter Season may we strive to follow your example and spread the Gospel to others with courage and love.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for all you have done for us. By your death on the Cross and Resurrection we are filled with renewed hope and life. Help us to remember what you did for us as we learn to bear our own crosses with the hope and promise of eternal life and happiness with you.

Jesus is Alive...Alleluia!